

THE REMINISCENCES OF CARL
SCHURZ

Series " of the *Century Magazine*, the following passage occurs concerning the "treaty " of peace:

" Pending these negotiations, and after the proposed terms had been made known to the leading officers of Sherman's army, I conversed with nearly all these officers, among them Logan, Howard, and Blair, and heard no word of dissent from any of them. I can now recall to mind but one general officer who, at the time, questioned the wisdom of General Sherman's action, and that was General Carl Schurz. General Schurz was then serving temporarily as my chief-of-staff, and when I returned from Sherman's headquarters about 12 o'clock on the night of the 18th I found General Schurz sitting up, waiting for me. He was eager to learn the terms, and when I stated them to him he expressed regret and predicted just what subsequently happened. He said the public mind of the North would be inflamed by the assassination of Lincoln, and now that the armies of the Confederacy were virtually crushed, anything looking toward leniency would not be well received."

So far as it touches me, this narrative is correct, except in one point. It was not the ground of my objection to the terms that after the assassination of Lincoln " leniency " would not be "well received," but that the government could not possibly permit a general in the field to determine its policy concerning the reconstruction of the States in rebellion." It re-

quired no extraordinary political foresight to
predict the
prompt rejection of the Sherman-Johnston
agreement by the
government, as well as by the public opinion of
the country. I
remember the midnight scene spoken of by
General Slocum
very vividly. I was very much distressed—not as if
there could
have been any doubt as to the final outcome of
the matter, but
on account of General Sherman. With all his
companions in
arms, I esteemed him very highly, and
cherished a genuine